Japanese Bank Aid for conservation of Ajanta and Ellora Caves

2761. SHRIMATIVANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese Bank proposed to fund any tourism project for the conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Japan bank for International Cooperation has agreed in principle to provide loan assistance (Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II. The locations to be covered are: Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkhora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej and Kolvan in Maharashtra State.

(c) The project is proposed to be completed by June, 2008.

Renovation of historical tourist sites

†2762. SHRI MUNAWAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any foreign loan for the renovation of historical tourists sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location-wise names of those tourists sites where above loan is likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Infrastructure development project along the Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was carried out by undertaking loan assistance of 7.7 billion Japanese Yen from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.